

Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED MAGAZINE

JANVIER 2006

6



- éditó
- NA's perspective
- Event - 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARCELONA DECLARATION
- Training events ■ Participant's perspective
- Trainer's Perspective ■ EuroMed good practices





THE TOTEM PARTNERSHIP

The National Agencies of Italy and Poland, the National Coordinator of Egypt and the Salto-EuroMed Resource Centre describe the benefits and positive impact of their cooperation in the field of EuroMed. Together, they designed and implemented TOTEM, a long-term trainer courses, specialised in the training of trainers.



Thanks to its historical and geographical ties with the Mediterranean basin, Italy has been closely linked to the region over the centuries. Therefore one of the major issues of the Italian National Agency concerning Euro-Mediterranean cooperation was and still is the increase of the number of projects and contacts within the EuroMed Youth Programme. At the same time, there is a strong need to increase the training activities in order to offer project organisers an adequate support for their work.

From a Polish perspective, wider cooperation with Meda countries was a completely new possibility in international youth work. Partner countries in Euromed are not well known by young people in Poland, that is why bringing together young people from Poland and the Euro Mediterranean area can be a new enriching experience. According to this, the Polish National Agency puts quality first, to be prepared for the new phase of the EuroMed Programme and future promotion of this cooperation on the national level.

From the beginning, Egypt was and will

always be an active partner in the Euro-Med framework. The actual fulfilment of the Euro-Med projects is possible thanks to the Egyptian capacity building, who strongly believe in their country and who know how to use their capabilities in serving their country.

On this basis, it was quite obvious to welcome and respond to the proposal of the Salto-Youth Euromed RC to cooperate and be actively involved in the long term training course "TOTEM" (Training Of Trainers in EuroMed): TOTEM (see the previous issue of Meet'in Euromed and the web-site <http://www.salto-youth.net/totemdescription/?SID>) is a very ambitious concept which requires resources, and a very close cooperation among many actors in order to be successful and have a positive impact.

TOTEM is a complementary training course to TATEM (Training for active trainers in Euro-Med). It goes through four main phases: the first phase was in Italy from 16 to 26 March 2005 (Seminar One); the second phase was implemented by the participants who acted as observers of training courses realised in their own countries; at the same time they could submit action 5 projects to the national agencies; the third phase (Seminar two) was in Egypt from 18 to 26 November 2005. Last but not the least the fourth phase (Seminar three) will be implemented in Poland in May 2006.

Seminar One

During "Seminar One" in **Acireale** (Italy), the course focused on the trainer as conceiver/designer of educational projects. Participants grouped themselves in teams and elaborated training concepts they will further develop in the form of EuroMed projects. Another important feature of the TOTEM foresaw that each of the trainees would observe a professional trainer during a training course, analysing the overall process and reporting to the TOTEM team. Trainees had to choose a training accordin-





gly to their own personal learning goals and in agreement with their mentor. According to Giuseppe: "it was a unique experience to meet other colleagues and cooperate in a long term perspective, deepening human relations, knowing more deeply other realities. It was amazing to host so many people from the European Union and the Mediterranean area who stayed together for seven days in the beautiful framework of Sicily and Mediterranean Sea."

Seminar Two

Throughout "Seminar Two" in **El-Mynia** (Upper Egypt), trainees had the opportunity to know more about the culture of Upper Egypt. They visited different temples and tombs like the necropolis of Bani Hawaas, composed of 39 tombs. The participants were able to have face to face discussions, to have direct contact between one ano-



ther and to discover their own cultures (immersion phase), which was very helpful and beneficial and which is considered one of the main aims of any intercultural event. To acquire a better taste of the local realities, they spent time with different non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with different interests and different local development programmes.

The main characteristics of Seminar Two were the emphasis on the trainer as "implementer" (fr: animateur) and the emphasis on self-directed and individual learning. While Seminar One focused on the trainer

as "designer", during seminar two the focus was on the acquisition of those competences the trainers need when planning, delivering and evaluating sessions. According to Gehad, it is important to refer to such events as: "very good opportunities for better understanding and better cooperation, where different people come together from different regions regardless of the borders, to send a message of love, peace and coexistence. These participants are really the best ambassadors for each country and their existence gives a light of optimism to humanity."

Seminar Three

The final seminar, to be held in **Wroclaw** (Poland), will aim at analysing the outcome of participants' projects, assessing their learning, working on training quality criteria. As Pawel points out: "hosting the final

part of the training is a chance to increase understanding and interest of all future trainers in Central and Eastern Europe and particular in Poland. Important issue, which is also covered by the TOTEM programme, is experience and knowledge of realities of youth organizations – this is a strong potential of the training, rarely

offered by training courses, but very important in wide Euro Med cooperation."

Finally, we would like to underline that from the point of view of the National Agencies of Poland, Italy and the National Coordinator of Egypt, the Totem partnership is proving to be a very enriching experience for us. Namely, because we are acting in a spirit of solidarity, understanding and faith in the values of brotherhood, support and friendship. Furthermore, we strongly believe in the European Youth Programme.



Before the beginning of the two seminars in Italy and Egypt, we decided to have a pre-meeting with the team of trainers and the course director Bernard Abrignani. In an atmosphere of friendship and respect for the tasks and the competencies of each other, we worked together, proving that cooperation is really possible! We could experience that the National Agencies and National Coordinators role is not only to support financially well described applications, but also to encourage qualitative work on projects, offer support and proper information on the national level and international level.

We are deeply convinced that with new "Youth in Action Programme" and the new phase of EuroMed cooperation, after overcoming this year's difficulties, there will be a number of people who will bring a strong and qualitative impact on further developments of EuroMed cooperation.

It is important to stress the role of cooperation and partnership as the key-factor for a better implementation of the objectives of the Youth Programme, for the benefit of young people and the beneficiaries of the programme and the new Youth in Action Programme!!!

GIUSEPPE GUALTIERI

(TCP officer of the Italian National Agency)

GEHAD AMER

(National Coordinator of Egypt)

PAWEŁ ALEKSANDROWICZ

(Responsible of Action 1 in the Polish National Agency of the Youth Programme)

TOTEM BLOG :

Learning community, trainers' and participants' blog: <http://totem.f2l.org>